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CPYRGHT

There's a new set of spy stories which has such explosive implications—if even partly true—that the appropriate committees of Congress should not rest until they are fully satisfied they have gotten to the bottom of it.

The rumors began a few weeks ago with the defection of a Soviet agent who was said to have substantial knowledge about the placement of other Soviet agents in the United States. Early reports said he had information that 12 Americans in the State Department, four in the Central Intelligence Agency and three in scientific laboratories were working for the Soviet secret police.

A new bit of spice has now been added by an article in the New York Journal American. It charges that a United States diplomat said to have been a Soviet spy for 18 years was allowed to resign three years ago "for fear his prosecution would trigger a major State Department scandal."

These charges are too serious and too explosive to go unanswered. The Senate Internal Security Subcommittee has moved to obtain testimony of the Soviet defector, who is known as Col. Michael Goleniewski. By all means this should be done. The subcommittee should then run down every lead he may be able to provide, until all the avenues of this disconcerting story are exhausted.

As much as possible of what is learned should be made public, to give the people some answers to the questions which have been raised by these charges.

The public needs to be assured either that the charges definitely are groundless or else that they have been tracked down and that effective correction has been made. Such assurance cannot come from brushing the matter under the carpet. It needs full investigation.